
INCITE INFORMATION

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Victims of the War

by Adam Starchild

Battles For Peace in the Middle East

by Rabbi Jacob Feuerwerker

<p><i>Todd Mason and Mark Hand examine</i> The Mount Pleasant Police Action</p>	<p>News Digest: <i>Persian Gulf Profits, The McLean Deluxe, Killing the IRA</i></p>
<p>Reviews: <i>Voices From the Third Reich, Individualism Reconsidered, Bad Trips</i></p>	<p><i>Leonard Peltier, Robert McFarlane, William Webster</i> People Buried In The News</p>

Contents

Number 13 • July-August 1991

- News Digest..... 4
- Raised Eyebrows by *Todd Mason* 6
- Dirty Work by *Mark Hand* 8
- Victims of the War by *Adam Starchild* 10
- Battles For Peace In The Middle East by *Rabbi Jacob Feuerwerker*..... 13
- Rave Reviews:..... 16-19
 - Norman Lederer on *Voices From the Third Reich*, Mark Hand
 - on Joe Peacotts's *Individualism Reconsidered*, plus book and
 - periodical reviews in brief.
- People 'Buried' in the News..... 20

Editor's Notes

As I'm sure you've noticed by now, *Big Forehead Express* has changed its name. What a colleague of mine described as "the best magazine title in Washington" has been sadly retired. If a name change wasn't enough, *Incite Information* has also moved its operations to Jesse Helms country. Please note the new address listed below.

As for this issue, there is a timely essay on the "drug war" by Adam Starchild who is a regular contributor to this magazine. Starchild highlights the astonishing court case of Pedro Guerrero, a Colombian sentenced to 12 1/2 years in prison on highly questionable evidence. There is also a provocative article by Rabbi Jacob Feuerwerker on Israeli relations with the Palestinians and Arab states. While I disagree with Feuerwerker's general conclusions, I believe that as a whole, his article tosses many interesting points into an already volatile debate. Also in this issue is an intriguing (as always) installment of Todd Mason's "Raised Eyebrows".

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Who's to Blame?

A casual world survey would provide one with a catalogue of pain and suffering. A cyclone in Bangladesh, an earthquake in the Soviet Union, civil war in South Africa and Cambodia, genocide in Kurdistan and Tibet and devastating famine in northern Africa. Even in the face of such atrocities, the greatest evil is

Editorials

how these stories are being presented in the media. We get stories about Nancy Reagan's bio and Ted Kennedy's latest scandal, but the almighty press relegates Third World tragedies to page ten or so. The Media Machine attempts to explain this by claiming that the further away the story, the less interested the viewer is. And, since the networks and newspapers are looking for ratings and sales, they must supply what the public wants. The reason for media indifference is not proximity. If it was 100,000 white, middle-class, non-Jewish, heterosexual males dying, they would cover it even if it happened on the moon. However, dark-skinned foreigners dropping like flies in South America is not news.

Alternative publications offer some hope, but the American public has, for the most part, become slaves to the media machine. Few people read, even less take time to question, so the word of the newscaster is taken at face value. The real movers and shakers are the network bigwigs and newspaper publishers (except when the Pentagon manipulates them). What can be done? I refrain from calling this syndrome irreversible, but the machine is well-oiled. In order to throw a wrench into the works, individual citizens must demand to know more. Your ignorance is the greatest tool in the mechanics of media manipulation. When we stop questioning, we lose. — Mickey Z.

(Mickey Z. is the editor of the Flaming Crescent, a monthly journal of opinion and satire.)

The Nightmare Scenario

The great summer celebrations of American military might are beacons of a demise down the road. No nation at peace with itself resorts to the public displays of mindlessness that cities across the United States have witnessed since the end of the Persian Gulf war. Seemingly deprived of much else in life, citizens stood by in droves to glimpse the military tools of American politicians that had been used to kill thousands of people. Along the parade route, young American kids dreamt of flying the Stealth bomber for the U.S. Air Force while their parents stood by and recited the incantation about showing appreciation for the U.S. troops who fought for our freedom. "To be a hero in today's army you basically just have to show up," says Gary Indiana writing in the *Village Voice*. As the standards for heroism have disappeared, so has the semblance of creativity and vitality that had, at one time, broken into the American "mainstream". Americans now need wars to occupy themselves. As Gary Indiana described the pre-war scenario: "There was going to be a New World Order and we were going to be its military branch. We would not be the brains or the bank, but what we had so often been accused of being: the cop."

— Mark Hand

Dick Cheney, Accountant

As reported in the May issue of *World Perspectives* (see reviews), the French news agency AFP says that the the United States could be at least \$10 million richer due to the Gulf War. Financial experts have alleged that the contributions pledged by U.S. allies, \$54.5 billion exceeds the actual costs of the war, \$45 billion. The *World Perspectives* article quotes a U.S. government official who said "I don't see how the cost could be much more than \$40 billion and I wouldn't be surprised if it is closer to \$35 billion." The White House says that the costs of war exceeds the amount pledged by allies.

Poll Tax Prisoners

According to the newspaper *Bayou LaRose*, even though England was forced to back down and scrap their poll tax after much rebellion from the people, there are still poll tax prisoners. Some of these prisoners are serving two year terms for their part in the Trafalgar Square rebellion a year ago.

Swiss Banking

Switzerland has announced that it will abolish its anonymous bank accounts in a bid to crack down on criminal transactions. The Swiss Federal Banking Commission said it will get rid of "Form B" accounts which allowed clients to conduct bank transactions through a lawyer, notary, or trust administrator without ever using their own identities. Switzerland has been trying to improve its reputation as a haven for drug dealers and other individuals operating illegal

businesses alleged to have deposited billions of dollars into Swiss banks. United States government authorities have long sought to force the Swiss to let them have access to bank account records of suspected criminals.

Food, Folks, and Fibs

According to the bi-monthly newsletter *The Guide To Healthy Eating*, McDonald's new hamburger called the "McLean Deluxe" is really "a big McFib". McDonald's is marketing the new burger as "91% fat-free". *The Guide To Healthy Eating* claims that "the new burger is actually almost 50 percent fat...Regular ground beef is 60 percent fat on per-calorie basis; 'lean' ground beef is still 54 percent fat. Because beef contains only protein and fat, with no fiber or carbohydrate, it can never be truly low in fat." In a recent advertisement, McDonald's claims that the "new McLean Deluxe is only 320 calories, and less than 30% of those come from fat. Made with a revolutionary 91% fat-free beef patty, McLean Deluxe has only 10 grams of fat and 60 milligrams of cholesterol." Fearing a customer revolt against their cholesterol laden hamburgers, it doesn't seem likely that American fast food restaurants will be offering a vegetarian burger anytime soon. Archer Daniels Midland Company, an Illinois-based company, says that over 60 million of one of its vegetarian burgers were sold in the United Kingdom in 1989.

European Racial Violence

"Recent months have witnessed a new wave of racial violence against

Europe's Arab and Muslim communities", writes Graham Usher in the May 3 issue of *Middle East International*. The hostile climate is most evident in France and the United Kingdom where there have been numerous cases of violence against Arabs and Muslims. However, it is the British and French governments that are perpetrating the greatest hostility. According to Usher, "the war has meant not just renewed hostility on the streets, but increased state surveillance of their communities. Immigration raids, deportations, police harassment and racial violence have all multiplied since August 1990." In Britain, for instance, no Iraqi has been allowed to enter or re-enter the country on the grounds of "national security". In Paris, police identity checks have become commonplace for those of Maghrebi appearance. A French official commented that "immigrants are very afraid at the moment. It is like the Algerian war. Algerians have strong memories of police persecution in Paris, when hundreds of Algerians were killed."

Shooting To Kill

On June 3, an undercover squad from Britain's elite Special Air Service (SAS) shot and killed three Irish Republican Army operatives in the Northern Ireland village of Coagh in the county of Tyrone. Three days before, the IRA had rolled a truck packed with explosives into a British army Base in Northern Ireland killing three British soldiers. The cycle of violence over who is to control the northern counties continues to have a life of its own. According to *The Independent* of London, "Unionists congratulated

the security forces and urged more such actions, while the nationalists responded with regret". The most controversial operation by the SAS was in Gibraltar in 1988 when three IRA members were shot dead as they were suspected of trying to plant a bomb to kill British servicemen. *The Independent* reports that "the potency of martyrdom can be seen in west Belfast, where two of the largest of the area's many murals depict the IRA members who died in Gibraltar and Loughgall" (where eight IRA member were killed). *The Guardian* of London reported comments made by John Stalker, a Manchester investigator and constable, who said in 1982 following the killings of six IRA members by the SAS, that there is "an inclination to shoot suspects dead without warning rather than arrest them." The role of SAS commandos is never acknowledged in official reports on such incidents. Since the late 1960s, British security forces have carried out over 300 fatal shootings.

- **World Perspectives**, \$19 - One Year (12 issues). People's News Service, PO Box 3074, Madison, WI 53704.
- **Bayou La Rose**, \$7.50 - One Year (4 iss). Bayou La Rose, 302 North J Street, Apt. #3, Tacoma, WA 98403.
- **Guide To Healthy Eating**, \$14.95 - One Year (6 issues). PCRM, PO Box 6322, Washington, DC 20015.
- **Middle East International**, \$59 - One Year (25 issues). MEI, PO Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, DC 20009.
- **The Independent**, London.
- **The Guardian**, London.

Raised Eyebrows by Todd Mason

Rites of the Holy War

100,000 dead? More? A few less? An ambiguous but somehow decisive "victory" for the New Whirled Ordure (and wasn't Bush's tearful admission, before the Southern Baptist convention in early June, of emotional torment while deciding whether or not to "send the troops in" verbal shit of the purest sort)? A torturing, autocratic but Oil Conglomerate-friendly regime rescued and restored, all in the name of protecting "our" nation and/or liberty? It's Miller time! Trundle on down to watch the tens of thousands of dollars wasted to transport weapons and their carriers to the District, only to further damage rarely repaired, already spotty roads (perhaps we are lucky that they didn't...immediately...collapse the Virginia-bound subway tunnels). Remember--the DC parade kicked the NYC parade's ass, just like

"The local television people salivated over the hardware ... occasionally remembering to ask a disaffected citizen to explain her or his non-participation in the post-slaughter euphoria."

We kicked Saddam's (by bombing the hell out of civilians and not even succeeding in replacing him with a new puppet). The local television people salivated over the hardware as it passed into the city, occasionally remembering to ask a disaffected citizen to explain her or his non-participation in the post-slaughter euphoria, comfortably surrounding such unpleasantness with six or seven happy campers just

overwhelmed by how much freer they were than before the war...which continues, of course, but not for our Happy Homefront Hawks (the tube jockeys from GE/RCA/NBC-owned WRC-TV4, as part of their "exclusive coverage" of the parade itself, were so desperate for any reason to be broadcasting the festival as to demand of each other why Norman Schwartzkopf was walking with the troops, rather than riding). Remember, the troops put themselves on the line for you...if you're on the board of directors of Exxon, a major stockholder in McDonnell-Douglas, a GOP functionary or candidate.

The War at Home

Elsewhere in this issue, Editor Hand has written of his adventures walking through the warzone that the DC government recently made of the Columbia Heights area of the city. Riots were set off when a DC cop shot a man she was arresting, after he reportedly pulled a knife (it was also reported that he was drunk, and that she had one cuff on him already when she shot him). The largely Hispanic neighborhood has been a target of police harassment; many residents were sick of it. Hence, rioting, which was

quelled (eventually) by drowning the neighborhood with tear gas, flooding it with gas mask-bearing cops, and essentially declaring martial law over a several-block area. The *Mounie Washington Times* pushed for flooding the area with INS agents to pick off "illegals" and deport them; perhaps more offensively, the television people would ask the mayor, the chief of police, the city administrator what "we" were going to do about these rioters, reaffirming the conviction of anyone who sees the bigtime press as simply a tool of the government (Mark thinks that Gannett WUSA[sic]-TV9's Nancy Mathis was the worst offender in this way, but one could see it all over the dial). Radio commentators kept grouching about the loss of property, and how that justified threat to life and limb posed by the nightsticks and teargas...the *City Paper* pointed out that the primary targets of the rioters were a Popeye's Chicken restaurant and a 7-11, the two ugliest buildings in the area. Almost no one seemed particularly concerned whether any residents of the neighborhood, forcibly detained in their usually

"Stifling behind closed windows, suffocating from gas with open ones -- I hope no one was killed through the application of 'un-violent' gas bombs and nightsticks. But I doubt we could trust the press to report of such a killing."

unair-conditioned apartments, would have difficulty breathing. Stifling behind closed windows, suffocating from gas with open ones--I hope no one was killed through the application of "un-violent" gas bombs and nightsticks...but I doubt we could trust the press (particularly electronic) to report of such a killing. Some of the tubers got gassed themselves, but unlike among Nixon Era colleagues, it didn't make

any of the commentators question whether the police were acting in citizens' best interest. Are our journalists so much stupider now, or merely more brainwashed?

Presidential Timber/Timbre/Clamber

Charles Robb, US Senator from Virginia, and Douglas Wilder, Virginia Governor. We're supposed to consider these people worthwhile contenders for national office, because of their blandness and doggedness, their lack of anything like an unconventional idea or desire to shake anyone's boat...except over their mutual personal dislike. Some people insist they would be just dandy candidates, superlative National Virginians, if only they'd quit sniping (and Robb's staff would quit taping Wilder's cellular phonecalls)...when, of course, they're just a pair of hacks. Expect to see them in greater positions of power soon.

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The Mount Pleasant Affair

"The group, mostly Hispanic but also including whites and blacks, seemed to have no leader, no particular plan and no clear rationale for its actions, other than a shared anger for a police force they said has mistreated their community."
— The Washington Post

The local media coverage of the early May raucous rebellion in the Mount Pleasant, Adams Morgan, and Columbia Heights neighborhoods of Washington, D.C. was predictably dismal, shallow, inaccurate and highly subservient to the city powers-that-be. Naive reporters were astonished to learn about how community members had reached such extreme levels of agitation over the conduct of their local governing apparatus, most specifically the often abusive and violent Metropolitan police force. After the first night of demonstrators throwing rocks and bottles at police, one television reporter remarked that it was sad to see that the police, who are traditionally viewed by the community as protectors of the peace, had been cast into the role of victim.

When Washington Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon sternly announced the implementation of a strict dusk to dawn curfew (a.k.a. collective house arrest and punishment) for these neighborhoods, the local television reporters and anchors expressed a collective sigh of relief as if to say "it was about time for some law and order". As if to assume that their viewers, listeners and readers understood that a liberal democracy can legally and justifiably resort to implementing a curfew, the press praised the new mayor for standing tough against the rioters.

When police tear gas sharp shooters took aim at the youthful crowd, reporters on the scene who were overcome by the gas themselves never questioned the use of this anti-civil disturbance weapon. In the streets of Mount Pleasant, the rebellion had begun to challenge the authority of a United States city government. The crowd had taken over a couple of blocks of Mt. Pleasant Street. Gordon Peterson, news anchor of the Gannett Co.-owned WUSA-TV carelessly remarked that what the rioters were doing was a form of "urban guerrilla warfare". Of course, Peterson was wrong. Urban guerrilla warfare entails secrecy and planning, not the spontaneity and openness displayed by the Mount Pleasant demonstrators. Peterson's remark would only help to portray the Mount Pleasant crowds as dangerous troublemakers who, according to people calling up local radio talk shows, should be rounded up by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and sent back to El Salvador.

On the second night of the curfew, I needed to satisfy my curiosity. I carefully ventured alone into the forbidden zone, the area where police officers had the authority to arrest anyone on the streets. It was about 8:30 pm and the streets in the northeastern Dupont Circle and lower Adams Morgan areas were unusually quiet. It was apparent that the local residents

had been successfully intimidated into remaining indoors. To put the curfew to the ultimate test, I walked north on Sixteenth street into the heart of the curfew zone. Lining the street were several city prison buses, waiting to cart off to jail the expected steady stream of curfew violators. I passed by two or three pairs of cops who did not bat an eyelash. After walking about half a mile, I turned into Malcolm X Park where the mayor and the police chief had set up their command center to monitor their clampdown on the disturbances. Outside a parked recreational vehicle were about a dozen Park Police officers on horseback and a few plainclothes cops holding walkie talkies. After assessing the situation for a minute or so, I concluded that I was immune from arrest that night. Perhaps, it was my lily white skin that signaled to the police that I was not a "troublemaker". As I headed home, I realized how easy it would have been for me, white skin and all, to have sabotaged the Mayor's command center. I learned from the 11 o'clock news later that night that about 30 or 40 people had been arrested. The handcuffed curfew violators shown on t.v. were Hispanic and black.

The Battle After the Ceasefire

On May 8th, NBC-TV News followed up on a story reported in New York *Newsday* about a battle between Iraqi and United States' forces that took place inside Iraq a couple of miles from the southern Iraqi town of Basra. What made this battle special was the fact that it occurred two days after George Bush had implemented a ceasefire. According to NBC, U.S. officials claimed that since Iraqi forces fired first, the "bet" or ceasefire was "off". The Pentagon-shot footage that NBC had mysteriously obtained was filmed at the front lines of the battle. It showed several Iraqi tanks, jeeps and other equipment being blown to bits. Iraqi soldiers could be seen standing around a tank just before it was blown up. The audio portion of the footage was also revealing. U.S. soldiers could be heard in the background laughing about the massacre. One soldier jokingly issued a warning to the Iraqi troops, an instant before their tank was blown-up, to "say hello to Allah". Pentagon officials admit that the Iraqi troops were in retreat when the one-sided battle took place. To many observers, the battle resembled the massacre or "turkey shoot" that took place a week earlier outside of Kuwait City.

Jonathan Pollard

States do not look kindly upon the act of spying, no matter the motive. Lengthy prison terms and in some countries the death penalty are routinely meted out to those who are caught passing information to the enemy. To justify the harsh punishments, government officials and their judges cite the harm done to their state's national security and integrity. In many cases, spying is considered a worse infraction than murder. What happens, then, when someone is caught passing secrets to a friendly nation of his or her government? In the case of Jonathan Pollard, the lifetime term he received was equivalent to the average prison sentence given to someone found guilty of spying for an enemy. This fact plus the alleged low confidentiality level of the documents he gave to the Israeli government has justifiably sparked a campaign in the United States and in Israel for his immediate release.

Victims of the War

by Adam Starchild

The first casualties of war are inevitably our constitutional rights.

During World War I, citizens sat in jails for holding anti-war views - some for criticizing the Red Cross in their own homes. One man was sentenced to prison for reading sections of the Declaration of Independence in public. Another, a minister, was sentenced to 15 years for saying that the war was un-Christian.

During World War II, tens of thousands of American citizens were ordered from their homes to U.S. concentration camps solely because of their Japanese ancestry.

During the Vietnam era, the Constitution was trampled right and left. Mounting public protest fostered wave after wave of repression by the government. Student protestors at Kent State and Jackson State were gunned down by the National Guard. Thousands of citizens were tear gassed by troops as they protested and countless others were placed under surveillance by the FBI.

There was even an absurd claim made by an assistant attorney general in the Nixon Justice Department that the curtailing of constitutional rights was justified by a doctrine of "qualified martial law". (Though that doctrine has since been discredited, it is hardly possible to ignore it now. The assistant attorney general who wielded it like a club, William Rehnquist, is now the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.)

The government's war on drugs has its civil liberties victims also. Since the beginning of the 1980s, we have lost many of our constitutional rights, and we stand to lose more, in addition to the monetary costs of this new war. In practical terms, you have already lost your First Amendment right to associate with whomever you choose; your Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and arrests; your Fifth Amendment rights to be proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, not to have your property confiscated before you have been convicted, and not to be sentenced for any crime of which you have not been convicted; and your Eighth Amendment right to bail. These rights are gone, not just in drug cases, but in all criminal cases, right down to traffic violations. The Constitution has not been repealed, but the Supreme Court, in the name of the War on Drugs, has severely limited these rights.

One example is the abolition of the right to bail in federal criminal cases. The Supreme Court bought the government's argument that the Constitution did not provide a right to bail, but merely prohibited "unreasonable" bails. If no bail at all is set, then it cannot be "unreasonable" by this

Adam Starchild is serving a ten year prison sentence for tax fraud. He is a regular contributor to this magazine.

definition. The result is that defendants are already prisoners, working in prison factories, with limited access to family, witnesses, and lawyers, for months or even years before their cases are heard.

During the Civil War, President Lincoln suspended habeas corpus. Not long after the war was over and Lincoln was dead, the Supreme Court ruled that unconstitutional. Forty years after the World War II internment of Japanese-Americans, it was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Our history is filled with examples of such hysterical reactions, and the lesson the politicians have learned from them is that if they call it a war, we will be so swept up in patriotism that we will let them snatch away whichever of our rights they choose.

Remember Bush's speech of two years ago, when he elaborated the fraud by holding up a small plastic bag, as distastefully as if he were holding a urine specimen. "This is crack cocaine", he said, "seized a few days ago by Drug Enforcement Administration agents in a park just across from the White House. It could easily have been heroin or PCP." But since nobody has ever been known to sell any kind of drug in Lafayette Park, it couldn't possibly have been heroin or PCP. The bag of cocaine wasn't anything other than a stage prop. The DEA was put to considerable trouble and expense to tempt a dealer into the park in order to make the arrest at a time and place convenient to the President's little dramatic effect.

Bush's speech writers ordered the staging of the "buy" because they wanted to make a rhetorical point about the dark and terrible sea of drugs washing up on the innocent lawns of the White House. The sale was difficult to arrange because the drug dealer in question had never heard of Lafayette Park, didn't know how to find the place on a map, and couldn't imagine why anybody would want to make such complicated travel arrangements in order to buy rocks of low-grade crack.

Two days later, confronted by the press with the mechanics of the sleight of hand, Bush said, "I don't understand, I mean, has somebody got some advocates here for this drug guy!" Apparently it never occurred to him that anybody would complain about his taking a few minor liberties with the facts.

The government seems to be increasing the number of phony cases in order to make the statistics in the War on Drugs look good. To be a Colombian in Florida is today the equivalent of being Japanese in California during World War II.

One particular example is the 1988 case of Pedro Guerrero, a Colombian who had been a legal permanent resident of the United States for two years at the time of this arrest. Hired as an errand boy for a Miami restaurant owner, he was convicted of "conspiracy" and "aiding and abetting the possession of drugs" for just being there. His employer had shipped drugs into Miami in a container load of tropical food products.

There was not one shred of evidence offered proving that Pedro knew there were drugs present. In fact, when the shipment was being unloaded at

the warehouse, he left the scene and called the Food and Drug Administration's food inspectors to come look over the shipment and issue the inspection permits so that the food could be sold to restaurants. If he had had the slightest knowledge, or even a suspicion, that drugs were present, he would not have done that. All he would have had to do was wait until the cargo was unloaded to remove the drugs. Federal inspection of imports is on an honor system - until the FDA is called, the inspector will not come - so the consignee has control of the uninspected shipment.

Despite this rather clear evidence on his behalf, and with no evidence offered against him apart from having driven another employee to appointments and standing in the driveway watching the truck being unloaded, a Miami jury convicted him and he was sentenced to twelve years in prison in October of 1988.

Contrary to the public belief that prisoners are released after serving only a fraction of their sentence, Pedro will actually serve 10 1/2 years with good conduct credits. Federal parole was abolished in 1987. Nor is his lengthy sentence a reflection of the court's assessment of either his personal merits, his role in the case, or an opinion of his degree of guilt. Congress and state legislatures have made long sentences automatic for drug convictions. Federal sentences for all crimes were made mandatory in 1987, and the mandatory sentences were increased in 1988 and again in 1989. Pedro faced a 10 year minimum at the time of his case. A few months later it would have been a 20 year minimum, and after 1989 it would have been 30 years to life. The two years above the minimum sentence was for his refusal to plead guilty. This is a complete abrogation of the Fifth Amendment right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. One must now be punished for claiming innocence. The then 10 year minimum for first offenders is 10 times the average time served for bribery, embezzlement, and fraud. It is twice the usual punishment for robbery.

His sentencing judge was the subject of a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in March 1991 at which numerous incidents of discrimination by the judge were documented. Particularly telling was the judge's remark, reported by National Public Radio, that he had joined a private club with discriminatory membership policies so that he wouldn't have to listen to Spanish being spoken all day.

As of April 1991, Pedro is still in prison waiting for his appeal to be heard. Should he win, and that is difficult in even the most obvious cases of miscarriages of justice these days, he will have wasted years of his life just waiting for his case to be heard. Appeals courts are generally charged with reviewing errors of law, not errors of fact. The Constitution never guaranteed anyone a fair trial, only a speedy and public one.

Pedro is now 25 years old. What kind of future can he have when he is released in his mid-thirties after a decade in prison for a crime he didn't commit? He is a victim of the War on Drugs. This war has many such casualties in name of political expediency. °

Battles For Peace in the Middle East

by Rabbi Jacob Feuerwerker

For several years I have been hearing from "progressive circles" that Israel must compromise with the Palestinian Arabs so that the moral greatness of Islam can shine through. Some liberal Jews claim that Islam is in a stage in their development comparable to the periods of development in Jewish and Christian history. This is nonsense. Other than the call for the destruction of the Amelekites and few other nations of Canaan, nowhere in Jewish Law or traditions are Jews commended to subjugate other people. To the contrary, Jews are commended to treat others with kindness because "strangers you were in the land of Egypt".

While the New Testament contains many slanders about Jews and believers of other faiths, it also calls for "witnessing" others and to "save" them through conversion. Nowhere in the New Testament does it call for the persecution of non-Christians. This was a policy of individual nationalistic Christian leaders. Even under the Inquisition, it was stressed as a Church policy and not as a commandment. During the worst days of the Catholic Inquisition, there were many Catholic leaders who vehemently opposed this policy, including such leaders as Saint Patrick of Ireland, Cupronicus of Poland and Cardinal Sylvester of Prague, just to name a few.

On the other hand, the Koran openly calls for both the persecution of others and the enforcement of their conversion ("submit") under the pain of death. There are open instances in the Koran of bragging over the massacre of Jews and turning productive areas of Arabia into a desert soaked with Jewish blood. Saddam Hussein has many example for his rhetoric against Israel in the Koran. While the Koran allows for Jews and Christians to live in peace in Islamic lands under a Dihimina status, this Dihimina status is not merely the surrender of political rights, but is an agreement to be publicly humiliated at the whim of a "faithful". To live under Dihimina is to live in a state of utter humiliation. Over 25 years ago, an elderly Yemenite Jew told me what it was like to live under the Dihimina status in Yemen. A Muslim could walk up to any Jew and slap or spit on him and the Jew had no right to try to ward off the attack unless it drew blood. A Muslim always has the right of way, even on the sidewalk. As Israel has many Jews who used to live in Arab lands along with their children, is it not reasonable to expect these people not to want to return to their former second-class status? Is it not surprising that these Jews make up the vast majority of the "Israeli right wingers"?

Rabbi Jacob Feuerwerker is an Orthodox Rabbi. For the past 5 1/2 years, he has been a resident of the various gulags of Ohio.

Let's start with a few truths. The reason that no Islamic leader condemned the "Scud" missile

attacks on civilian areas of Israel and Saudi Arabia is because to Muslims, it is a proper way to conduct a "jihad". Does it surprise anyone that aside from the Nazis using gas chambers against Jews and other prisoners, and two instances of Soviet gas attacks against Afghan rebels, since World War II, most gas warfare has been Muslim against Muslim? Not one Iman or Mullah condemned Nasser for gassing Yemenis. Nor did they complain when Iraqis gassed Iranians and Kurds. Yet they complained when the Soviets whom they consider "uncircumcised infidels" gassed Afghans. When I shared the photographs of the gassed Kurds with a Muslim teacher from Pakistan, the response was "war is madness and look at the Protestants and Catholics in Ireland". I don't recall the IRA ever gassing Protestant children or the Orangemen ever gassing Catholic children.

"... since World War II, most gas warfare has been Muslim against Muslim. Not one Iman or Mullah condemned Nasser for gassing Yemenis."

One of the biggest mistakes made during the recent war in the Persian Gulf was a political one. U.S. politicians went on the record claiming that their conflict was with Saddam Hussein, not the innocent Iraqi civilians. Let's get one thing straight. Saddam is the way he is

because the Iraqis are the way they are. Saddam didn't kill all these Kuwaiti civilians. The soldiers who pulled the triggers along with their Palestinian cohorts did so. The Palestinians have not only had leaders that have chosen the wrong side in every conflict since World War II, but the Palestinians themselves have chosen the wrong side. Yasir Arafat was not on a rooftop cheering the "Scud" missiles falling on Israel. The individual Palestinians did the cheering and they should face the consequences for their actions.

For the past 20 or so years, everyone seems to be talking about "Palestinian rights". Yet no one has ever explained to me what rights Palestinians or any other Arabs have in the 20 or so Arab nations that they don't have in Israel? After what the Palestinians did to the Kuwaitis, I'm shocked that anyone is even talking about "justice for the Palestinians" at the expense of Israel.

The Palestinians are not an issue. They are the subterfuge for the Islamic excuse to drive Israel out. Let's examine the significance of an independent Jewish state in the geographic middle of the Islamic world. In human history, there have been continuous shifts of national borders and/or religious sovereignty. Nations have always gained and lost lands. But they've lost from the edges and conquered out from the edges. With the exception of Israel and to an extent Lebanon, there is a solid Islamic world from Pakistan in Central Asia to the Atlantic coast of North Africa, including European Turkey and small parts of the European Soviet Union. Since the early 1970s, Lebanon has been militarily insignificant. That leaves a powerful Jewish Israel in the center of the Islamic world. Many Islamic leaders never have lost their dream of reconquering the areas of Europe that they were driven

out of. They can't do so until they subjugate the Jews and Christians in Israel and Lebanon. (Recently, Syria has subjugated most of the Christians in Lebanon.) Islamic military code as specified in the Koran states that they must control where they tread and all in between before they can move on to new conquests.

Americans who will be called upon once again to save Europe must be vigilant against any attempts to weaken Israel, especially by any sort of "land for peace deals" envisioned by the Bush, Baker, Sununu triumvirate. As this will weaken Israel, it must be kept in mind that pre-1967 Israel is smaller than Kuwait. By itself, with relatively small forces, it took Iraq about 12 hours to conquer Kuwait. The U.S. will not be able to come to the aid of the Israelis in time if Israel had the reduced borders because there will be no place for the U.S. to land.

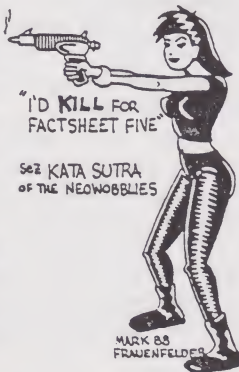
While there are some armchair generals who believe that the Middle East deserts would be a good place to use tactical nuclear weapons, why should we even contemplate accepting the risk of all that this would entail when we don't even have to find out? It is much simpler to have a strong Israel keeping the Arab and some of the radical Muslims at bay. The aid that the U.S. gives Israel is a bargain in comparison to the service it ends up doing. Israel wouldn't even need any aid were it not forced to spend massive amounts of funds to counter the high tech Western weapons that the Arabs are purchasing. With secure borders, the Israelis are more than able to internally produce weapons to counter anything that the Chinese and the North Koreans are selling to the Iranians and the Arabs. The West and the Soviet Union should institute a total arms embargo on the Middle East. They should force China, North Korea, Brazil and Argentina to go along with it or face trade sanctions. This will force the Israelis and the Arabs to either produce their own weapons or live at peace with one another. °

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Voices from the Third Reich: An Oral History

Edited by Johannes Steinhoff, Peter Pechel, Dennis Sholwalter.

Regnery Gateway, Washington, DC.
\$24.95.

review by Norman Lederer

Several years ago, a remarkable book appeared on the publishing scene, then disappeared almost immediately without a trace. *From the Ruins of the Reich* by Douglas Botting presented a comprehensive view of Germany under allied occupation; a period during which a civilized Western European nation was laid open to the depredations of all and sundry who had access to the "great barbecue". The underlying motif of Botting's narrative is that millions of Germans were murdered after the cessation of hostilities, either through deliberate immediate action on the part of vengeance-minded soldiers and civilians, or through conscious action of the overlords intending to punish all Germans for the actions of the Third Reich. While the horrendous barbarities of the Russian occupation troops gained much attention owing to the sheer enormity of their collective inhumanity, all of the allied forces and their hangers-on shared in the spoils of war and in exacerbating the plight of a defeated, bombed-out, disease-ridden and demoralized population.

Botting's well-written, thoroughly researched account made little impact on the American book buying public. There is a definite possibility that *Voices From the Third Reich* may suffer a similar fate. This oral history compilation includes a fascinating array of Nazi, anti-Nazi, officer corps and landser, leaders, followers and non-committed German voices caught up in the tension and turmoil of Nazi Germany and World War II. The book's publication by a politically conservative publisher might also prove to be off-setting to the more

liberal segment of book readers. If so, it would be unfortunate because there is much of interest and value in the edited volume.

A number of themes permeate the recollections of the military and civilian contributors to this work. The Military Officers and rank-and-file speak to their desire to do a good job as soldiers, sailors, and airmen; emphasizing their commitment to their fellows in their accepted obligation to defend their country against external enemies. Few speak with any enthusiasm about Nazi ideology; not that ideology did not have an impact, but when the crunch came on the field of battle, one's behavior in the presence of his fellows was what counted. The accounts of the military participants could have been profitably expanded in length, since they present a side of the war still largely unknown by Americans. They stand as useful supplementary information to the single most significant account of the World War II military experience; Guy Sajer's *The Forgotten Soldier*, an indispensable personal account of the German effort on the Eastern front.

The book, as edited by the team of Johannes Steingoff, Peter Pechel and Dennis Schowalter, includes interesting testimony from victims of the Holocaust, who almost without exception describe the ways and means by which they survived the war thanks to individual Germans unwilling to stand aside and see them destroyed.

Even more dramatically, Germans openly stood up against the Nazi regime and as a result made the ultimate sacrifice. The students at the University of Munich enrolled in the White Rose conspiracy and the extraordinary variety of men and women involved in the July 20, 1944 conspiracy against Hitler signed

Norman Lederer's reviews have appeared in several publications including The Catholic Worker, Christian Century, and the San Francisco Review of Books.

their collective death warrants in their attempt to end the regime which made the appellation "German" anathema to world opinion. Their stories also find a place in the volume.

The terror bombing of German cities occupies a central place in the accounts related to the oral historians and excerpted in this work. Once the German air cover had been brought to its knees, Allied aircraft operated relatively freely in the airspace over German urban areas. City after city was systematically pulverized in 1944 and 1945, until the end of hostilities. What was remarkable was not the extent of destruction, but the fact that something of the physical landscape survived.

Unfortunately, a goodly amount of that which endured the bombing was destroyed at the very end of the war, either through stupid Nazi last ditch resistance or by wanton random devastation at the hands of the victors.

As I intimated at the beginning of the review, this book will not be everyone's cup of tea. Hatred of Germans still runs deep in various segments of the reading public, although fortunately not on the level of national policy as in, for instance, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. Yet, there is a great deal of interest and value here to the open-minded reader desirous of learning what daily life is like in an atmosphere of total war. °

Books In Brief

Bad Trips: A Sometimes Terrifying, Sometimes Hilarious Collection of Writings on the Perils of the Road, Edited by Keath Fraser, New York: Vintage Books, 1991. 352 pp. (\$12.00).

Canadian writer Keath Fraser has put together a marvelous anthology of stories by a group of novelists, poets, journalists and others who have lived to tell the story about some of their worst trips around the world. Contrary to the title, this book will motivate you to buy a plane ticket to some exotic or perhaps chaotic location. Most of the entries are reprinted from periodicals and books. Writer Peter Matthiessen's contribution is a passage from his National Book Award winning *The Snow Leopard*, an eery account of his long trek across the Himalayas. Singer Bob Geldof of the Boomtown Rats stepped into a frantic Bangkok bar where women were dancing on the tables to one of his songs. Other contributors include the late Graham Greene on a trip to Mexico, George Woodcock on his travels in Wales and West Somoa, and novelist Umberto Eco's commentary on California.

The State Is Your Enemy: Selections From The Anarchist Journal Freedom 1965-86, Edited by Charles Crute, London: Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX, 1991. 272 pp. (£5).

Editor Charles Crute has divided this invaluable book into two sections, the first half being analysis of the British political scene and the second half being insight on international affairs. Because copies of the journal *Freedom* are difficult to find on U.S. newsstands, it is always nice when Freedom Press issues a book with selections from this 100 year old publication. Particularly special about this volume are the sections on the Falklands War and the 1968 failed revolution in France. The selected articles reveal the intensity and sophistication of the May 1968 Paris student revolt. The analysis of the French Communist Party's leadership showed what a despicable lot they were: "The counter-revolutionary role the Communists have played in many revolutions has never been more perfectly exemplified than in the events in France". — reviews by Mark Hand

Individualism Reconsidered

By Joe Peacott (with an extensive bibliography by Jerry Kaplan)
B.A.D. Brigade, P.O. Box 1323,
Cambridge, MA 02238
\$3.

review by Mark Hand

In both radical and institutionalized political thought, there has been little if no room left open for discussion of individualism. Regrettably, the current American political system has been and continues to be dominated by two camps that mirror each other in their acceptance of the proper role of government. Democrats have been accused in recent years of being soft on crime and anti-military while the reality shows that the Ted Kennedys and the Joseph Bidens of the U.S. Congress are as willing as any Republican to build more jails, to grant police forces more authority and to vote in favor of sending U.S. troops to invade a foreign land. The institutionalized political system in the United States represents the antithesis of individualism and freedom. Every policy and social issue is framed in terms of how the government or the large American corporation can play a part in remedying the problem, not in terms of how the individual can happily survive free of outside interference.

Even current influential political thinkers, whose ideas fall outside the realm of respected political opinion, have for the most part refused to embrace or even identify the ideals of individualism. In his pamphlet entitled *Individualism Reconsidered*, Joe Peacott tackles the idea of individualism by targeting the anarchist movement as one of the groups guilty of an anti-individualism bias.

In the introduction, Peacott laments: "there is almost no mention of individualism, individuality, or individual freedom in most of the anarchist press, except in the context of, and subordinate to, the needs and desires of a larger social collective". Peacott considers himself to be an anarchist of the individualist strain. He argues that the

current anarchist movement is dominated by the "collectivist outlook". Peacott's goal is to move the current anarchist framework of thought away from the inconsistent and often authoritarian conclusions of the socialist camp. This is a formidable task given the fact that most of today's anarchists were socialists before they adopted the label of anarchist.

The anarchists as well as the libertarian socialists have failed to focus on numerous issues of freedom including the government's use of coercion to fund itself through taxation, the governments monopoly on violence and the property rights of individuals. In fact, it has been left up to the libertarian capitalists to champion many of these rights of the individual. Peacott does come down hard on the collectivists tendency to gloss over taxation. He writes: "a group of individuals, whether the state, the collective, or the community, should not be free to execute (kill) others, tax (steal from) others, draft (enslave) others, or 'carry out the people's will' on (rule) others ... As long as the individual is non-coercive, their activities should be no business of the 'community'".

Peacott also attacks what he calls the "groupist ideology" of feminism. Peacott correctly argues that "describing all conflicts between men and women as caused by sexism is both inaccurate and anti-individualist. Not all men behave alike, and neither do all women ... Substituting one sexist ideology for another is not the way to freer relations and understanding between women and men."

In today's America, the myth of rugged individualism continues to remain at the core of the American ethos. But in fact, historical and current realities prove that individualism is by no means linked to our current political and social relations. In this important and vital pamphlet, Peacott shows how individualism is even lacking in the social arrangements and political outlooks of the radically progressive thinkers; the people who you would most expect to be espousing the rights of the individual. °

Periodicals

● **World Perspectives**, \$19 - One Year (12 issues). People's News Service, P.O. Box 3074, Madison, WI 53704-0074.

World Perspectives is a gem of a newsmagazine well worth its subscription price and more. It is a publication of the People's News Service, "a non profit organization monitoring shortwave broadcasts from around the world." Its sources include the BBC and the CBC as well as radio from all over Eastern Europe. Other sources include Radio Beijing, Voice of Israel and Voice of Vietnam. In each issue, there are feature articles and capsule-sized reports of news from every continent. In the May issue, there is a report on the anniversary of the failed U.S. invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. There is even news from Australia about uranium mining and a group of Australian farmers who stormed an American base in protest of the American practice of dumping wheat on Australian markets.

● **The Flaming Crescent**, \$20 - One Year (12 issues). Mickey Z., P.O. Box 9103, L.I.C., NY 11103.

Flaming Crescent editor Mickey Z. is also a published poet, a columnist for the Queens Tribune and a martial arts expert who has appeared in nine action films. The May 1991 issue is dominated by Mickey Z.'s lively commentary on a variety of things including "kneejerk leftists like Ramsey Clark and Jimmy

Breslin", the McLaughlin Group, New York City drivers, and the narrow-mindedness of political pundits and journalists. There is also an interview with Rep. Gary Ackerman on his trip to the Middle East, plus lots more.

● **Eritrea Now**, Monthly. Eritrea Now, P.O. Box 12091, Berkeley, CA 94701.

With the recent overthrow of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam's government and the power struggle between the various rebel factions (including the Eritrean People's Liberation Front) in the capital city, Addis Ababa, *Eritrea Now* becomes an even more valuable source of news on Ethiopia and its relations with other nations. Editor Meg Kidane compiles press reports from English language publications from around the world. In the April 1991 issue, there are reprints of articles from the *New African*, the *Indian Ocean Newsletter* and *Africa Confidential*. According to Kidane, "one of the major problems we have encountered is the lack of awareness by the general public on the Eritrean issue." Eritrea is a region in northern Ethiopia along the Red Sea across from Yemen and southern Saudi Arabia. For those of you who are interested in African affairs, but are clueless when it comes to Ethiopian politics, I suggest you send a couple dollars to *Eritrea Now* for a sample copy.

— reviews by Mark Hand

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● Free Leonard Peltier

Some new twists have been added to the 15-year campaign to free imprisoned American Indian Movement activist **Leonard Peltier**. An article by writer **Peter Matthiessen** containing evidence showing that Peltier was not the one who killed the two FBI agents made the cover of a recent *Nation*. This article preceded the re-release of his book entitled *In*

the Spirit of Crazy Horse which describes the U.S. government's repression of AIM during the 1970s. The book was suppressed in 1984 after former South Dakota Governor **William Janklow** and FBI agent **David Price** filed defamation suits against Matthiessen for naming them as participants in the repression against AIM. *Z Magazine* reports that **Oliver Stone** is planning to make a movie about Peltier and AIM which is due to be released next year.

● Secret Agent McFarlane

In his "The First Stone" column in the May 29-June 11 issue of *In These Times*, **Joel Bleifuss** asks the question "Is **Robert McFarlane** currently or was he ever an agent of Israel?" Bleifuss cites the testimony of former Israeli intelligence officer **Ari Ben-Menashe** in front of the House Judiciary Committee in March. Ben-Mebashe claimed that McFarlane, **Ronald Reagan's** National Security Advisor from 1983 to 1985, "entered Israel's service in

1978, having been hired by **Rafael Eitan**, the anti-terrorism adviser to then-Prime Minister **Menachem Begin**." Bleifuss says that McFarlane may have been the U.S. intelligence officer who told American **Jonathan Pollard**, the convicted spy for Israel, what documents to retrieve for the Israelis. "In light of Ben-Menache's allegations, one wonders if McFarlane was Israeli's [sic] 'other agent on the inside'."

People

"Buried" in the News

● Dirty Tricks

In the April 15 issue of *The Nation*, **Mark Perry** and **Jeff Goldberg** predicted the exit of **William Webster** from the Central Intelligence Agency by no later than the end of Spring. Webster's departure as chief spy was made official in a press conference with President **George Bush** on May 8. According to the *Nation* article, "during Webster's low-key era of good feelings - an epoch marked by a more conservative attitude toward covert operations and greater agency openness on Capitol Hill - everyone felt that Bush served as his own D.C.I." To succeed Webster, Perry and Goldberg reported the leading candidate to be **James Lilley**, former ambassador to China and career CIA officer. It was assumed that **Robert Gates**, the person who Bush did nominate as the successor, was a "long shot, since he withdrew his name from consideration for the post during the Reagan Administration."

New Address!!!

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